

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated October 28, 2008
Reply to Office Action dated July 1, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 64, 65, 67 and 68, amend claims 63 and 66, and add new claim 69 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-62 (Cancelled).

Claim 63 (Currently Amended). A printing information distribution apparatus which is adapted to be operably connected to portable information terminals and printers through a communication network, ~~each of the portable information terminals comprising first input means for inputting a first user ID of a portable information terminal and first transmitting means for transmitting the first user ID input by the first input means through the communication network, and each of the printers comprising second input means for inputting a second user ID of a printer which is input by an input operation of a user of the printer and a second transmitting means for transmitting the~~

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~~second user ID input by the second input means through the
communication network, the apparatus comprising:~~

communication means for, when one of the portable

15 information terminals accesses the apparatus, transmitting a
content selection screen image and a print format selection
screen image to the one of the portable information terminals
which accesses the apparatus;

reception means for receiving a content name and print
20 formation information transmitted from the one of the portable
information terminals which accesses the apparatus, the print
format information comprising at least sheet selection
information indicating a type of a printing sheet, and for
storing the received content name and print format information in
25 a reservation information storage means associated with a user
identification of the one of the portable information terminals
which accesses the apparatus;

generation means for reading the content name and print
format information from the reservation information storage
30 means, generating a print content based on the read content name
and print format information, and transmitting via an electronic
mail a print preparation complete notification to the one of the
portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus; and

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distribution means for, when one of the printers accesses
35 the apparatus, transmitting a user identification input screen
image to the one of the printers which accesses the apparatus,
receiving a user identification of a portable information
terminal transmitted from the one of the printers which accesses
the apparatus, and transmitting the print content and print
40 format information corresponding to the received user
identification to the one of the printers which accesses the
apparatus

~~means for storing items of print information;~~

~~means for transmitting to one of the portable information~~
45 ~~terminals through the communication network a printing~~
~~reservation screen image which enables a user of the one of the~~
~~portable information terminals to input a reservation request for~~
~~printing a selected item or items of the print information stored~~
~~in the print information memory by one of the printers and the~~
50 ~~first user ID;~~

~~means for storing the reservation request and the first~~
~~user ID which are transmitted from the one of the portable~~
~~information terminals through the communication network; and~~

~~distribution means, in response to the second user ID-~~
55 ~~transmitted from one of the printers, for selecting and reading a~~

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~~reservation request from the reservation request and first user
ID storing means which corresponds to the second user ID
transmitted from the one of the printers, reading an item or
items of print information from the print information storing
60 means which corresponds to the read reservation request, and
transmitting the read item or items of print information to the
one of the printers which transmits the second user ID.~~

Claim 64 (Cancelled).

Claim 65 (Cancelled).

Claim 66 (Currently Amended). A printing information
distribution apparatus which is adapted to be operably connected
to portable information terminals and printers through a
communication network, ~~each of the portable information terminals
5 comprising a first input device to input a first user ID of a
portable information terminal and a first transmitter to transmit
the first user ID input by the first input device through the
communication network, and each of the printers comprising a
second input device to input a second user ID of a printer which
10 is input by an input operation of a user of the printer and a~~

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~~second transmitter to transmit the second user ID input by the
second input device through the communication network, the
apparatus comprising:~~

15 a communication unit configured to, when one of the
portable information terminals accesses the apparatus, transmit a
content selection screen image and a print format selection
screen image to the one of the portable information terminals
which accesses the apparatus;

20 a reception unit configured to receive a content name and
print format information transmitted from the one of the portable
information terminals which accesses the apparatus, the print
format information comprising at least sheet selection
information indicting a type of a printing sheet, and configured
to store the received content name and print format information
25 in a reservation information storage unit associated with a user
identification of the one of the portable information terminals
which accesses the apparatus;

30 a generation unit configured to read the content name and
print format information from the reservation information storage
unit, generate a print content based on the read content name and
print format information, and transmit via an electronic mail a

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print preparation complete notification to the one of the
portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus; and
a distribution unit configured to, when one of the printers
35 accesses the apparatus, transmit a user identification input
screen image to the one of the printers which accesses the
apparatus, receive a user identification of a portable
information terminal transmitted from the one of the printers
which accesses the apparatus, and transmit the print content and
40 print format information corresponding to the received user
identification to the one of the printers which accesses the
apparatus

~~a print information storage device which stores items of~~
~~print information;~~

45 ~~a transmitter which transmits to one of the portable~~
~~information terminals through the communication network a~~
~~printing reservation screen image which enables a user of the one~~
~~of the portable information terminals to input a reservation~~
~~request for printing a selected item or items of the print~~
50 ~~information stored in the print information memory by one of the~~
~~printers and the first user ID;~~

~~a reservation request and identification storage device~~
~~which stores the reservation request and the first user ID which~~

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~~are transmitted from the one of the portable information~~
55 ~~terminals through the communication network; and~~
~~a distribution device which, in response to the second user~~
~~ID transmitted from one of the printers, which selects and reads~~
~~a reservation request from the reservation request and first user~~
~~ID storage device which corresponds to the second user ID~~
60 ~~transmitted from the one of the printers, reads an item or items~~
~~of print information from the print information storage device~~
~~which corresponds to the read reservation request, and transmits~~
~~the read item or items of print information to the one of the~~
~~printers which transmits the second user ID.~~

Claim 67 (Cancelled).

Claim 68 (Cancelled).

Claim 69 (New). A computer readable storage medium having a
computer program stored thereon that is executable by a computer
5 to control a printing information distribution apparatus which is
adapted to be operably connected to portable information
terminals and printers through a communication network to perform
a process comprising:

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when one of the portable information terminals accesses the
10 printing information distribution apparatus, transmitting a
content selection screen image and a print format selection
screen image to the one of the portable information terminals
which accesses the apparatus;

receiving a content name and print format information
15 transmitted from the one of the portable information terminals
which accesses the apparatus, the print format information
comprising at least sheet selection information indicating a type
of a printing sheet;

storing the received content name and print format
20 information in a reservation information storage means associated
with a user identification of the one of the portable information
terminals which accesses the apparatus;

reading the content name and print format information from
the reservation information storage means;

25 generating a print content based on the read content name
and print format information;

transmitting via an electronic mail a print preparation
complete notification to the one of the portable information
terminals which accesses the apparatus;

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- 30 when one of the printers accesses the apparatus,
transmitting a user identification input screen image to the one
of the printers which accesses the apparatus;
receiving a user identification of a portable information
terminal transmitted from the one of the printers which accesses
35 the apparatus; and
transmitting the print content and print format information
corresponding to the received user identification to the one of
the printers which accesses the apparatus.